levels of psychosocial well being as a result of community intervention. (See Appendix A for an updated beneficiary count.)

Locations – Three districts of Kabul City and Shomali valley

Province	*District*	*Village*	*Activity*	*Start*	*Beneficiaries*	*Promoters*
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	• 48 *Child to Child* (CtC) groups (3 groups of 16), topic of friendship discussed, threats identified, action being taken • Discussion of 2nd topic – environment – begun in October	April 2003	**367:** **Blocks 1 2 5** **boys 48 44 35** **girls 72 75 93**	Jamila, Toorpakai, Suhila
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	• 15 CtC groups, topic of friendship discussed, threats identified, action being taken • Introduction of 2nd topic – environment – begun in October	April 2003	112: 44 boys, 68 girls	Karima Najmi
Kabul	Shi Khan Shomali	Mirachs Kot	• 15 CtC groups, topic of friendship discussed, threats identified, action being taken • Discussion of 2nd topic – environment – begun in October	April 2003	114: 60 boys, 54 girls	Abdul Safa
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	• 16 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • 1 promoter and 16 facilitators trained to gather baseline data	September 2003	128: 72 boys, 56 girls	Austad Taleb
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	• 16 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • 1 promoter and 16 facilitators trained to gather baseline data	September 2003	128: 42 boys, 86 girls	Dr. Wali
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	• 16 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • 1 promoter and 16 facilitators trained to gather baseline data	September 2003	128: 59 boys, 69 girls	Zekria
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	• 15 CtC groups created, topic of environment introduced • 1 promoter and 16 facilitators trained to gather baseline data	September 2003	119: 72 boys, 47 girls	Austad Admad Shah

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal – To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

SC/US is implementing *Child to Child* programs to mobilize children to take actions on identified threats by (1) giving them the knowledge to improve their situation, (2) encourage them to become active in giving direction to community intervention and (3) elicit parents' and community leaders' support to make changes. To ensure that children involved in these programs see real changes relative to the issues they identify, SC/US is mobilizing parent and youth committees to support *Child to Child* programs by implementing practical solutions to the issues. (See Appendix B for parent and youth committee participation.)

Three indicators are used to measure program success: observed change in psychosocial well being of children, improved coping mechanisms of *Child to Child* participants and their siblings and peers and reduction in the effects of poverty and protracted conflict within target communities.

Objective 1 – **Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.**
Objective 2 – **Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.**

A total of nine communities implement *Child to Child* programs: in five communities the first cycle of programming began in the summer of 2003, and the second cycle began in October 2003; in four communities the first cycle began in October 2003.

A total of 593 children (231 boys/362 girls) are participating in 78 *Child to Child* groups in five communities and have completed the first cycle of *Child to Child* activity. Common threats identified by the children in three locations in Arzam Qimat, and communities in Kabul districts 6 and 12 include these:

1. Greed and unwillingness to share water by homeowners who have wells within their compounds,
2. Fighting between children about appropriate locations for rubbish disposal,
3. Lack of appropriate places to leave rubbish,
4. Fighting over drinking water availability due to lack of (working) water pumps and wells,
5. Some families not allowing their children to attend school, resulting in fighting among children due to the low self esteem of the children who cannot attend school and teasing by the ones who do go to school,
6. Bus drivers not allowing children to ride their buses and/or charging excessive fares and
7. Sadness about poor physical environment, especially lack of flowers and greenery.

Following fall presentations by children from each location to adults and community leaders, some immediate child protection concerns were addressed[5]. Prior to the implementation of *Child to Child* programming in the first five communities, children said that they felt adults were not hearing their issues. After the sharing of children's concerns and the development of action plans, an evaluation by SC/US staff showed that children felt that not only are their concerns being heard, but that they are valid and, in many cases, transcend age, gender and economic situation (see below).

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[5] *Step Four* of the six step *Child to Child* program gives children are forum to voice their concerns to parents, extended family members and community leaders. Issues affecting children's well being are presented through songs, role-plays and story telling during an open community meeting.

In Arzan Qimat, 100 men, 116 women and approximately 400 children attended an October 28, 2003 community presentation. In District 6, Char Qala, 30 men, 78 women and approximately 225 children attended the November 6, 2003 community presentation. In Shi Khan, 88 men and approximately 112 children attended the November 5, 2003 presentation.

Specific community responses have been threefold.

First, regarding the lack of accessible clean water in communities, children themselves have prioritized of who should be able to get water: first are those who attend school and second are those who do not attend school (and, thus, can collect water at a later hour in the morning). Also on this issue, community leaders have met with staff of the NGOs DACAAR and CARE in District 12 about repairing wells and water pumps. Reparations, begun in December, will continue into 2004 and include the following: two new wells, plus 25 repaired and 6 new hand pumps as well as consultations about 21 suitable locations for rubbish disposal in District 6 (with CARE); 10 new wells in Shi Khan; 18 repaired wells in District 12 (with DACAAR). Potential limitations to achieve these goals in a timely manner are the need for cooperation from the NGOs who first installed the wells and/or pumps in the communities as well as support from local political leadership to determine suitable and mutually agreed rubbish disposal sites.

Second, community action included negotiations with the director of bus drivers in District 12, which resulted in all drivers serving District 12 agreeing to ***not*** charge children extra to ride their buses. Because of this, children are now less frightened and nervous about riding buses, and are also less tired in school and/or doing chores because they are able to ride, rather than walk, long distances.

Finally, children in all five communities were sad that their neighborhoods remain physically scarred by 23 years of conflict. In particular, children expressed the desire to have more beautiful physical surroundings. Again, community members (through parents and youth committees) met with municipality and mosque leaders to address this concern and, in turn, provincial officials have ensured committees that saplings and flowers will be planted in public areas in the spring.

In December, 485 children (163 boys/322 girls), from these five communities participated in an evaluation of the first phase of the *Child to Child* program to measure whether the children thought that the *Child to Child* program was a positive step towards reducing threats to their psychosocial well being. The evaluation used participatory, child-focused methods to evaluate children's perception of (1) facilitator leadership skills and (2) program efficacy. Children evaluated facilitators' skills and effectiveness in working with them using a participatory method to rate performance based on three faces – smiling, frowning, no expression – to measure approval, disapproval or no comment. Using the same process, children evaluated the topics they had discussed in their *Child to Child* groups in order to measure the effect that addressing these issues has had on their own lives and on their communities.

Also in December, children from these communities began with the second phase of the *Child to Child* process looking at issues in their physical environment that negatively affects their psychosocial well being.

Following the project workplan, a second cycle of *Child to Child* work has begun in four communities: Qala Shir Khan, Dogh Abad, Gul Bagh, and Mosihee. To prepare the communities for *Child to Child* programs, SC/US staff trained 68 adults (42 men and 26 women) to gather baseline data. Facilitators' (64) and promoters (four) covered these topics: drawing, Q&A skills, participatory methods and child-friendly approaches. Training for baseline data collection ensures that SC/US and communities have data to measure achievements against at the end of the project and into the future. As mutually agreed with Consortium partners, baselines include information about children's level of worry regarding interpersonal disputes and fighting with and among other children and development of moral values and

culturally appropriate behavior (*tarbia* in Dari). As agreed, psychosocial well being is being measured according to the degree or level of activities and behavior change that occurs for and with children in targeted areas.

All together 503 children (245 boys/258 girls) from these four communities have formed 63 *Child to Child* groups and have had meetings to identify their concerns. The two tables below show the results of initial data gathering from the children. For each new location, the number of children identifying a topic as a source of worry, fighting and sadness for them is given.

Baseline results for new locations: reasons for fighting

Locations	**Environment problems**: lack of water, access to water from hand pumps, disagreement over rubbish disposal, play leading to fighting, access to bakery, lack of flowers/trees		**Education problems:** play/ fun resulting in violence, fighting over resources (access to stoves, pencils, notebooks, chairs), bullying		**Personal problems:** fight at home with siblings over disrespect for resources, access to public transport		**Economic problems:** lack of parental home thus have to move all the time and fight with new neighbors		**Total # of children**
Qala Shir Khan	87	68%	33	26%	5	4%	3	2%	128
Mosihee	97	76%	30	23%	1	1%	0	0%	128
Dogh Abad	83	65%	34	27%	7	5%	4	3%	128
Gul Bagh	42	35%	34	29%	27	23%	16	13%	119
Total	309	61%	131	26%	40	8%	23	5%	503

Baseline results for new locations: reasons for worry

Locations	**Environment problems**: lack of safe play space, lack of water, pollution from rubbish disposal, worry/ fighting over access to bakery, poor street surface – worry about getting hurt/wet/ dirty, long distances to reach bazaar, hunger, lack of clinics and hospitals for their family's health		**Education problems**: distance of schools, lack of schools, lack of resources in schools – no chairs/tables/ heating, travel to schools and traffic – afraid of getting run down both by buses and cars		**Personal problems:** landmines, traffic – speed of vehicles and access to buses so as to go to school		**Economic problems:** lack of parental home thus have to move all the time and fight with new neighbors, no wood or oil to heat houses for the winter, at school no heat, poor house construction due to war		**Disability:** concern about bullying of disabled children both within the family and by strangers		**Total # of children**
Qala Shir Khan	72	56%	22	17%	20	16%	13	10%	1	1%	128
Mosihee	72	56%	35	27%	0	0%	17	13%	4	3%	128
Dogh Abad	75	59%	14	11%	16	13%	20	16%	3	2%	128
Gul Bagh	54	45%	16	13%	8	7%	30	25%	11	9%	119
	273	54%	87	17%	44	9%	80	16%	19	4%	503

Objective 3 – **Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.**

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance – Consultations with Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Kindergarten teachers about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and uses for the ***child protection and monitoring tool*** developed by the Save the Children Alliance in 2003 took place to help teachers recognize especially vulnerable children in their classrooms, identify their special needs and refer them to the proper authorities.

Further training in support of this objective are planned for the final six months of the project and will enable participants to (1) explain the meaning of child rights and child protection, (2) use the child protection monitoring tool in their communities, (3) help children and adults use participatory methods that enable them to identify, prioritize, analyze and plan for action on protection issues that affect them, (4) explain how child protection issues can be addressed through community mobilization, (5) promote children's participation and involvement of relevant authorities and agencies, and (6) write child protection monitoring reports and submit them to appropriate agencies.

Objective 4 – **Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.**

Following trainings with 32 participants from 17 NGOs in September, SC/US is the focal point for the Central Region Child Protection forum to coordinate child protection issues with other agencies operating in the central region of Afghanistan.

To observe Human Rights Day 2003 on December 10th, Save the Children Alliance members in Afghanistan (SC/US, SC Japan, SC Sweden, and SC/UK) launched a national *Butterfly Campaign* to promote awareness, dialogue and action for child protection. The butterfly symbol for the campaign is based on a popular religious verse, the Hadith Sharif, which says, *"Children are the butterflies of paradis."* The *Butterfly Campaign* aims to highlight a global, shared responsibility to protect Afghan children. SC/US and its Alliance partners are thus encouraging all Afghans to wear a blue butterfly-shaped ribbon as a symbol of their awareness of and commitment to take concrete action to protect children. The campaign is intended to urge dialogue among all Afghans to promote action on child protection issues such as beating; early and forced marriage; trafficking; discrimination; the negative impact of ongoing insecurity, poverty and displacement; family loss and separation; heavy and exploitative work; lack of access to education and dangers from the physical environment, including landmines.

In early December, seven Ministry of Education (MoE) and one META staff joined a three-day training, with the goal of building the capacity of teachers to understand psychosocial well being and recognize threats to individual children's well being. Topics were these: defining key terms and concepts; listening skills; helping children talk about stress; children's resiliency and coping strategies, and ways of promoting these; psychosocial needs and rights of children; psychosocial wellness for children in Afghan culture/society; modern definitions of child abuse and an understanding of things that put children at risk.

In mid-December, SC/US partnered with the MoE and UNICEF, under the goals of an SC/US UNICEF Child Protection project, to lead a two-week methodology and teaching skills training, plus psychosocial training, for 80 MoE master trainers from throughout Afghanistan. The MoE has agreed that, during 2004, their staff will train 665 child protection trainers to reach more than 26,000 teachers, nationwide, on issues of psychosocial well being for children.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover.
B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

Beneficiary Count by Location

LOCATION	# families	# inhabitants	# children	# boys	# girls	# CtC boys	# CtC girls
Dist 12 Arzan Qimat Block 1	3,640	32,760	25,480	10,192	15,288	48	72
Dist 12 Arzan Qimat Block 2	1,260	11,340	8,820	3,528	5,292	44	75
Dist 12 Arzan Qimat Block 5	4,867	43,803	34,069	13,628	20,441	35	93
Dist 6 CharQala	6,100	54,900	42,700	17,080	25,620	44	68
N Kabul Shi Khan	600	5,400	4,200	1,680	2,520	54	50
Dist 7 Gul Bagh	1,500	13,500	10,500	4,200	6,300	72	47
Dist 7 Mosihee Gangalak	2,500	22,500	17,500	7,000	10,500	72	56
Dist 7 Dogh Abad	2,500	22,500	17,500	7,000	10,500	42	86
Dist 7 Qala Shir Khan	1,500	13,500	10,500	4,200	6,300	59	69
Total	24,467	220,203	171,269	68,508	102,761	470	616
Rounded #s	**25,000**	**220,000**	**171,000**	**68,500**	**102,500**		

Parents and Youth group activities in nine locations: three districts of Kabul city and Shomali valley

Province	*District*	*Village*	*Parents Groups*	*Youth Groups*	*Activities/Trainings*
Kabul	12	Arzan Qimat	6 groups 12 men 14 women	6 groups 16 men 14 women	Community mobilization youth and parents meeting on 3.11.03 to develop action plans regarding lack of drinking water, the physical environment, flowers/trees, and bus access for children.
Kabul	6	Char Qala / Qala Wazir	2 groups 7 men 7 women	2 groups 12 men 14 women	Community mobilization youth and parents meeting on 6.11.03 to develop action plans regarding lack of drinking water, hand pumps, the physical environment, and garbage disposal.
Kabul	Mirachs Kot Shomali	Shi Khan	1 groups 10 men - women	1 groups 10 men - women	• Community mobilization for youth and parents meeting on 20.11.03 to develop action plans regarding lack of drinking water and hand wells. • Community education on CRC for youth parents committees from 23-25.12.03 (In the future these trainings will be done when first entering a community.)
Kabul	7	Gangalak/ Moosihee	2 groups 8 men 5 women	2 groups 8 men 5 women	Meeting to develop committees 13-14.12.03
Kabul	7	Dogh Abad	2 groups 6 men 7 women	2 groups 11 men 10 women	Meeting to develop committees on 11 and 14.11.03
Kabul	7	Qala Shir Khan	2 groups 5 men 5 women	2 groups 10 men 10 women	Meeting to develop committees on 3 and 4.12.03
Kabul	7	Rish Khoor / Gul Bagh	2 groups 10 men 4 women	2 groups 10 men 4 women	Meeting to develop committees on 13.12.03

The International Rescue Committee – Third Quarterly Report Oct – Dec 2003

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: The International Rescue Committee	**Date:** 21 January, 2004
Mailing Address: House 61, Kochi Afghana, Shash Darak, District 9, Kabul, Afghanistan	**Contact Person:** David Murphy
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children & Youth	**Telephone:** 070 294398 **E-mail:** davidm@theirc.org
Country: Afghanistan	**Reporting Period:** October – December 2003

A donor visit provided an opportunity for the consortium partners to visit projects in Kabul and Kunduz. This enabled partners and donors to compare different agency approaches and re-examine program objectives. Partners have continued to meet to share information and work together on revisions to current reporting mechanisms, developing a position paper and additional issues raised during the donor visit.

Analyses of the outcome of participatory community based surveys identifying risks and threats to children's well being and development were completed. Those issues prioritized by communities informed subsequent program development.

Community Working Groups (CWG's) representing women, men, and children were formed through elective processes in all 14 communities. The CWG's have been instrumental in all decision-making, design, and implementation of program activities begun during the reporting period. Community based projects to address threats and risks to children's welfare have been implemented. These include Literacy Courses, Book Distributions, Mobile Library, Child Friendly Spaces, Growing Green Spaces, and Tailoring Courses. In addition education assessments, identification of teachers for home based schools; construction projects, water assessments, and income generation training have been initiated.

A number of vulnerable women and children were identified through the CWG's and IRC have responded with emergency measures whilst working with communities to develop sustainable strategies for long term solutions. The IRC have also undertaken to build a small school for a number of blind children, youth and adults from targeted communities and surrounding areas.

Two inter-agency Child Protection Network meetings were facilitated by IRC during October and December. These focused upon child welfare issues including road safety and traffic awareness, juvenile justice, child trafficking, and deportee children.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Goal:

To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium Report
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth
Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-000-03-000019
Third Quarterly Report Oct – Dec 2003

I. Introduction

The Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium consists of three leading Child Protection agencies; Save the Children/US (SC/US), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Christian Children's Fund (CCF, known as Child Fund Afghanistan – CFA, in Afghanistan). The following report includes a consolidated summary of project activity to date and each organization's individual quarterly report. CCF/CFA consolidated the Report on behalf o all members of the Consortium.

Beginning with the this Quarterly Report, the Consortium is using a revised Quarterly Reporting format in order to present the Project's achievements and learning concisely while still allowing each member the opportunity to provide a more detailed commentary within it's individual Report.

II. Executive Summary

Each member of the Afghanistan Child Protection Consortium shares a common goal of improving the psychosocial well being and development opportunities of Afghan children. Using highly participatory community based, and managed, structures the Project works to identify and decrease the risks and threats to Afghan children's lives in both rural and urban environments. Each Consortium member brings to the Project it's own model of working with children, youth and adults. This approach allows the Consortium to learn from each other and add to the development community's body of knowledge on how to implement effective Child Protection programs.

Lloyd Feinberg and John Williamson of USAID/Displaced Children's and Orphans Fund (DCOF) visited the Project in November 2003. Their visit provided the Consortium members to visit different project activity in Kabul and Kunduz and compare their different approaches. Unfortunately, the planned visit to Heart Province was cancelled due to security related issues. The Consortium partners continue to meet and share information on their respective activities.

The Consortium intends to submit a analysis of forecast Project expenditure and a concept paper that outlines how the Consortium can expand its work in Child Protection in Afghanistan in the near future.

III. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Program Goal and Objectives – To enhance children's well being by increasing community based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

All three Consortium partners use participatory, community based methodologies/models in implementing the Project. SC/US uses the Child to Child methodology, CCF/CFA its Child

Objectives:

1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
2. Develop community-based projects to address child protection threats.
3. Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
4. Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

B. Beneficiaries

Due to the nature of the post war environment in Afghanistan all children are seen as being vulnerable. The protracted conflict and poverty stricken environment has resulted in a slow degradation in the ability of all families and communities to protect their children. It is true that there are groups of especially vulnerable children (street working children, disabled children, children in contact with the war, etc.), however the numbers are quite small and the situation is not as bad as might be expected. Due to the erosion of family and community coping mechanisms, all children are seen to be at risk and in need of support. This program seeks to improve children's psychosocial well-being and reduce threats to child protection by strengthening family and communities' abilities to protect and support their children, while at the same time addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable cases as they are identified.

The reporting period October to December has evidenced the formation and activity of Community Working Groups and the implementation of a number of direct program activities. Consequently this has provided the opportunity to gain more precise numbers of beneficiaries. It should be noted that there is no population census available for Afghanistan at either national or provincial levels and therefore accurate figures are difficult to gauge. Figures provided by village Shuras are usually represented by numbers of families and this seems to be the most appropriate measure to use. The revised number of children and families to directly benefit from this program is now expected to be 17,800. Numbers illustrated in the table below are the total of beneficiaries for programs implemented to date.

A. Total Number of Beneficiaries by Location

Province	*District*	*Village*	*Population*	*Beneficiaries Female*	*Beneficiaries Male*	*Beneficiaries Total*
Herat	Adraskan	Sange Sia	# Families 63	122	100	222
Herat	Adraskan	Barmallan	# Families 55	96	110	206
Herat	Adraskan	Kashafi	# Families 40	90	105	195
Herat	Adraskan	Shahbed	# Families 180	230	200	430
Herat	Enjil	Eshaq Solaiman	# Families 1,500	1,250	1,360	2,610
Herat	Enjil	Oqab	# Families 850	800	950	1,750
Herat	Enjil	Kharghaltan	# Families 60	168	110	278

Province	*District*	*Village*	*Population*	*Beneficiaries Female*	*Beneficiaries Male*	*Beneficiaries Total*
Herat	Enjil	Sarvestan	# Families 1,300	1,100	1,100	2,200
Herat	Ghorian	Dehran	# Families 500	500	550	1,050
Herat	Ghorian	Estanoo	# Families 400	425	475	900
Herat	Ghorian	Baran Abad	# Families 2,500	1,400	1,600	3,000
Herat	Ghorian	Rooshnan	# Families 450	550	500	1,050
Herat	Herat City, District 7	Shalbafan	# Families 5,000	1,300	1,300	2,600
Herat	Herat City, District 8	Gazergah	# Families 1,200	600	700	1,300
		TOTAL	**# Families 14,098**	**8,631**	**9,160**	**17,791**

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal - To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objective 1: **Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.**

During October analyses of the different participatory methods employed during the community assessments were conducted.

The outcomes of the assessments resulted in the following prioritized risks and threats identified by the communities.

- Access to education
- Low literacy rates
- Lack of green spaces and child friendly spaces for playing (including landmine issues)
- Poverty, a lack of economic opportunities (including issues of child labor)
- Lack of access to potable water
- Lack of access to healthcare and facilities
- Early marriage
- Wild/dangerous animals

This program intends to implement community based projects to address all of the risks and threats to child welfare prioritized above, (with the possible exception of wild and dangerous animals). However it has not been feasible to initiate projects on all of these issues within the reporting period.

Objective 2 - **Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.**

Community Working Groups

Community Working Groups (CWG's) focusing upon child welfare issues have been established in all 14 communities. To ensure equitable representation from all sections of the community CWG's representing women, men, girls, and boys have been formed in each location. Selection of CWG members was facilitated through the local mosques. Mullahs invited all interested community members to attend a meeting whereupon elections were held to identify CWG members. An eligibility criteria incorporating measures to ensure inclusive representation of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups including female headed households, war widows, and the disabled was employed. All CWG members are volunteers. In addition to CWG's, Community Workers have been identified using the same elective process. Community Workers are paid a stipend and have a basic 'job description' of their responsibilities to the community. The rationale of this approach is that Community Workers should be temporary and serve to galvanize the CWG's and associated community activities during the initial stages of program implementation. Establishing community-based programs that are effective and sustainable demands a great deal of time and effort dedicated to ensuring the necessary planning, resources and operational strategies are in place. However it is envisaged that once program activities have been established Community Workers will become dispensable throughout the lifetime of this project.

Numbers of both CWG members and Community Workers were determined by several factors.

- Size and location of community. For example, although Barmallan only has 55 families the village is actually divided into two locations in mountainous terrain and therefore effectively needed CWG's for each location.
- Equitable representation according to population demographics and community need. (CWG members represent the views of their neighborhood – usually determined by the 'catchment' area surrounding the local mosque).
- Number of community members wishing to volunteer as members of CWG's.

Summary Table of Community Working Groups & Community Workers by Location

Village by District	*Population # Families*	*CWG Female*	*CWG Male*	*CWG Girls*	*CWG Boys*	*CWG Total*	*CW Fem*	*CW Male*	*CW Youth*	*CW Total*
Sange Sia Adraskan	**63**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**10**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Barmallan Adraskan	**55**	**15**	**15**	**5**	**5**	**40**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**4**
Kashafi Adraskan	**40**	**5**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**12**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**
Shahbed Adraskan	**180**	**15**	**15**	**5**	**5**	**40**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**4**
Eshaq Solaiman Enjil	**1,500**	**30**	**30**	**10**	**10**	**80**	**4**	**4**	**0**	**8**
Oqab Enjil	**850**	**25**	**20**	**5**	**5**	**55**	**4**	**4**	**2**	**10**
Kharghaltan Enjil	**60**	**11**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**26**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**7**
Sarvestan Enjil	**1,300**	**15**	**14**	**5**	**4**	**38**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**9**

Village by District	*Population # Families*	*CWG Female*	*CWG Male*	*CWG Girls*	*CWG Boys*	*CWG Total*	*CW Fem*	*CW Male*	*CW Youth*	*CW Total*
Dehran Ghorian	**500**	**25**	25	5	5	**60**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**6**
Estanoo Ghorian	**400**	**12**	12	3	4	**31**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**7**
Baran Abad Ghorian	**2,500**	**26**	25	13	14	**78**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**9**
Rooshnan Ghorian	**450**	**18**	16	5	4	**43**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**6**
Shalbafan Herat City	**5,000**	**17**	17	4	4	**42**	**4**	**4**	**1**	**9**
Gazergah Herat City	**1,200**	**15**	15	5	5	**40**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**6**
TOTAL	**14,098**	**232**	**217**	**73**	**72**	**594**	**40**	**40**	**10**	**90**

CWG = Community Working Group ***CW = Community Worker***

Community Projects & Activities Begun during Reporting Period

Literacy Courses

Every community identified low literacy rates as a significant threat to children's well being. Communities have formulated 2 solutions to address this issue: to support existing literacy courses with material inputs – basically notebooks, text books, pens/pencils, black boards, chalk etc; and to establish literacy courses where they are either non-existent or do not meet community demand. IRC met with the Herat Literacy Department, part of the provincial Ministry of Education, to discuss the training of community members as literacy teachers. The Literacy Department has established a number of literacy courses in some of the communities in which IRC is working and has a training course for non-formal literacy educators. Trainings are provided to community members free of charge through certified Literacy Department courses.

CWG's have identified community members to be trained through the department of literacy courses in addition to conducting assessments to ascertain whether additional courses need to be started or existing courses supported. In total 78 literacy courses delivered to 1,032 girls and 1,812 boys through either direct implementation or material support have been initiated. The courses are delivered to children who are currently without access to education. In a number of communities the lower number of girls attending literacy courses is a reflection of the higher number of girls enrolled in schools according to figures supplied by schools and community members (*refer to table in education section).*

Challenges & Constraints

There are currently discrepancies within and between various community members concerning payment of literacy teachers. Whilst some literacy teachers are happy to volunteer their teaching time others are demanding payment. This not only threatens the sustainability of on-going literacy training post project funding, but also creates divisions amongst community members if some teachers are receiving payment and others not. IRC and CWG's are presently working with communities to explore viable solutions. These may include some form of collective community payment, in cash or kind, which would be offered to all literacy teachers.

Education

Every community prioritized access to quality education as a major issue affecting children's well being and positive development. Five of the 14 communities are currently without schools, notably in the district of Adraskan. IRC is therefore working with communities to develop 'Home Based Schools' in these villages. The IRC education department has considerable experience of home based schooling in Afghanistan. Community members with the minimum educational requirement will be selected for teacher training. Communities are presently selecting community members meeting the minimum requirement for teacher training. This will be facilitated according to Ministry of Education guidelines. In addition to training teachers an appropriate building to accommodate classes also needs to be provided. A construction engineer is currently working with communities to examine the most cost-effective construction suitable for home based schools. Once schools have been established there is a mechanism by which they can eventually be absorbed into the mainstream education system.

Teacher training and construction activities are due to begin in the next reporting period.

From the figures provided by schools and communities, summarized in the table below, there appears to be a divergence between school capacity and the demand of the local population. This is also currently being assessed.

Summary Table of Current School Capacity by Location

District	*Village*	*Population # Families*	*School Type*	*Enrollment Girls*	*Enrollment Boys*	*Total*
Adraskan	**Sange Sia**	**63**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adraskan	**Barmallan**	**55**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adraskan	**Kashafi**	**40**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Adraskan	**Shahbed**	**180**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Enjil	**Eshaq Solaiman**	**1,500**	**Secondary**	**750**	**650**	**1,400**
Enjil	**Oqab**	**850**	**Primary**	**600**	**400**	**1,000**
Enjil	**Kharghaltan**	**60**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Enjil	**Sarvestan**	**1,300**	**Primary**	**700**	**700**	**1,400**
Ghorian	**Dehran**	**500**	**Primary**	**200**	**400**	**600**
Ghorian	**Estanoo**	**400**	**Primary**	**150**	**200**	**350**
Ghorian	**Baran Abad**	**2,500**	**Primary & Secondary**	**930**	**1,250**	**2,180**
Ghorian	**Rooshnan**	**450**	**Primary & Secondary**	**120**	**200**	**320**
Herat City	**Shalbafan**	**5,000**	**Primary**	**1,200**	**1,000**	**1,200**
Herat City, District 8	**Gazergah**	**1,200**	**Secondary**	**300**	**480**	**780**

Mobile Library & Book Distribution
The mobile library has been out on the road visiting the various communities. Lending policy and management has been devised and implemented by the CWG's. To support existing community based literacy initiatives books have been distributed in all 14 communities. The Ministries of Education and Planning have approved all of the books. The mobile library will provide books and magazines to a total of 4,670 children on a monthly basis of whom 2,335 are expected to be girls and 2,335 boys. A sharer scheme by which each book is allocated to 2 children – allowing each child 2 weeks per book – has been initiated to maximize the lending capacity of the library.

Constraints/Challenges
There was a considerable delay in beginning this project due to fact that every publication had to be approved by both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Planning and this took an inordinate amount of time. Sustainability of the library, post project funding, poses another challenge. We have however been in discussion with the Literacy Department who has expressed an interest in supporting the library in partnership with communities when project funding ends.

Child Friendly Spaces/Playgrounds
A lack of safe play areas was another issue highlighted by children and parents. This problem is further compounded by the significant land mine problem. The 12 rural communities – excluding the 2 Herat City locations – identified safe areas of land suitable for Child Friendly Spaces. Herat City has not been included at this stage due to local access to parks with recreational amenities. To date the IRC has provided playground equipment to 6 communities who have undertaken to paint, install and maintain the playground equipment. The remaining 6 villages will be included in the next reporting period. In addition to identifying and allocating suitable land for these recreational spaces communities have designed the planning of these areas which will include the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers as part of the 'Growing Green Spaces' project.

The initial response to the first of the play areas has been tremendous. Children in the communities in which they have been installed were very excited and, despite the cold weather, both boys and girls have already been making the most of their new safe Child Friendly Spaces.

Growing Green Spaces
Children were extremely concerned about a lack of "green nature" in their environment particularly in play areas. The IRC team asked children what they would like to see and they requested public gardens and play areas with trees and flowers. Children were then asked how they could have accessible "green nature" spaces in their communities and, after some discussion, they decided to grow them.

The Growing Green Spaces concept is being implemented in all 14 communities predominantly through schools. However in communities without schools, significantly in Adraskan district, children will participate through the CWG's and other child focused projects. An IRC volunteer with a horticultural background is teaching small groups of children how to grow flowers, trees, plants, and shrubs. The children will then train larger groups of children using a child to child approach. Under the guidance of the IRC volunteer children will learn how to plant, transplant, care and maintain the various plants. Assessments to identify the availability of suitable, fast growing, plants and flowers able to flourish in the harsh climatic conditions have been conducted. Children will integrate this project with the Child Friendly Spaces to design public areas of "green nature". In addition children will be encouraged to take plants and cuttings home to grow as well planting shrubs and flowers in their schoolyards. Every school child within the program will have the opportunity to participate in this project and it is expected that the

inclusion of home projects will also involve siblings thereby maximizing the number children to benefit from the project.

Tailoring Courses & CEFE Training
Effective income generation activities are pivotal to achieving a sustainable, beneficial impact on children's well being. Endemic poverty was a significant causal factor underlying a considerable number of risks and threats posed to children, and have the greatest impact on those most vulnerable and marginalized. Communities identified access to skills training that will lead to viable income generation or employment opportunities as a key priority for them. Tailoring courses proved to be a popular choice amongst women. In response to this IRC has provided the resources to begin a number of tailoring courses in 9 communities. Skilled tailors from within each community who are volunteering their time in exchange for the materials necessary to run the courses are conducting trainings. CWG's have selected trainees focusing upon the most vulnerable women with children to support. 109 women will initially benefit from the courses and will receive tailoring kits at the end of the course enabling them to start their own enterprises. However one of the greatest challenges to viable income generation activities is identifying opportunities that will be sustainable without saturating the local labor market and can be supported by the local economy. In order to address this problem IRC have brought in an external training team skilled in delivering Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprise (CEFE) courses.

The CEFE trainers have previously been used on IRC vocational training programs in Afghanistan with great success. CEFE methodology was specifically developed for poor, often illiterate vulnerable communities. The 15 day TOT course entails learning how to train communities to identify their own skills and resources and, through a process of prioritization, identify viable income generation opportunities and develop strategies necessary to put them into practice. Once trained the trainers will train community members selected through the CWG's. The CEFE training is scheduled for the end of January and therefore a number of community members are expected to have been trained by the next reporting period.

Challenges/Constraints
Ideally the CEFE training would have already begun, however dates were determined by the availability of the CEFE team who are based in Bangladesh. January was the earliest they were able to return to Afghanistan where they will be working on a number of programs enabling travel costs to be shared.

School for the Blind
A number of blind children, youth, and adults were identified through communities in Herat City. They currently attend a School for the Blind in Herat established and run by a blind volunteer and team of teachers. The school provides the only educational and recreational facilities to this very vulnerable group. The children, some of whom are survivors of landmine explosions, learn to read and write in Braille and the school provides a supportive environment in which they can meet friends and share experiences. The school is currently run from a small building that has been loaned to them by a local benefactor. However the building will be reclaimed in 4 months time and despite many efforts on the part of the school volunteers they have been unable to secure an alternative building. A piece of land, ideally located outside the Eye Hospital, has been donated to them but they have no funding for construction on the site. The school is an excellent example of some of the most vulnerable members of society taking the initiative and helping themselves. IRC therefore intends to assist this group by constructing a school on the donated site. An engineer is currently working on this with the view to building a 4 room construction, suitable for use by blind children, in the most cost effective manner. It is expected that in addition to the children already attending the school, some of whom are from the Gazergah and Shalbafan communities, blind children from Enjil district will also be able to attend. It is therefore envisaged that

160 blind children and youth will use this facility on a daily basis through attending either morning or afternoon classes.

Water

Both adults and children specified access to potable water as a priority for communities. Many reported broken or septic wells and hand pumps as the overriding problem. However, when IRC contacted the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), concerning this issue they were informed that, with the exception of some communities in Adraskan, an in depth water assessment and subsequent installation of water facilities had been conducted in all of the relevant communities. The water projects implemented by DACAAR had included training on health and hygiene and care and maintenance of the water facilities. Communities had undertaken to maintain the wells as part of the project but this evidently has not happened.

DACAAR, who have considerable expertise and experience in water projects, also informed us that some communities in the district of Adraskan have problems accessing water due to difficulties determined by their geographic location. These problems are, apparently, complex but not insurmountable however the complexity of the problem makes them expensive.

Challenges/Constraints

IRC remains committed to working with communities to address water problems. However, before beginning to implement such projects communities must seek to develop feasible care and maintenance plans to ensure water facilities do not fall into states of disrepair once again.

In addition to this harsh Afghan winters are not an ideal time to begin work on water projects as the ground often freezes making digging impossible. Spring is therefore the most probable time to begin work.

Beneficiary figures given in the table below are for corresponding individual projects; it should be noted that a considerable number of children would participate in more than one project.

Summary Table of Activities Implemented during Reporting Period

Community	Population No. of Families	Activity	Beneficiaries Female	Beneficiaries Male	Total
Sange Sia Adraskan	**63**	Literacy Courses	56	39	95
		Book Distribution	29	28	57
		Mobile Library	50*	50*	100*
		Growing Green Nature	60	40	100
		Tailoring Courses	2	0	0
Barmallan Adraskan	**55**	Literacy Courses	31	50	81
		Book Distribution	26	39	65
		Mobile Library	40*	40*	80*
		Growing Green Nature	40	50	90
		Tailoring Courses	6	0	6
Kashafi Adraskan	**40**	Literacy Courses	20	30	50
		Book Distribution	30	30	60
		Mobile Library	35*	35*	70*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	60	80	140
		Growing Green Nature	40	40	80
		Tailoring Courses	5	0	5

Community	Population No. of Families	Activity	Beneficiaries Female	Beneficiaries Male	Total
Shahbed Adraskan	**180**	Literacy Courses	73	93	166
		Book Distribution	54	59	113
		Mobile Library	60*	60*	120*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	70	80	150
		Growing Green Nature	100	100	200
		Tailoring Courses	30	0	30
Eshaq Solaiman Enjil	**1,500**	Literacy Courses	76	239	315
		Book Distribution	196	224	420
		Mobile Library	300*	300*	600*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	1,000	1,200	2,200
		Growing Green Nature	850	850	1,700
		Tailoring Courses	20	0	20
Oqab Enjil	**850**	Literacy Courses	100	292	392
		Book Distribution	200	210	410
		Mobile Library	250*	250*	500*
		Growing Green Nature	700	700	1,400
Sarwestan Enjil	**1,300**	Literacy Courses	110	156	266
		Book Distribution	163	200	363
		Mobile Library	300*	300*	600*
		Growing Green Nature	810	856	1,666
Kharghaltan Enjil	**60**	Literacy Courses	86	71	157
		Book Distribution	120	0	120
		Mobile Library	45*	45*	90*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	65	80	145
		Growing Green Nature	90	80	170
		Tailoring Courses	8	0	8
Dehran Ghorian	**500**	Literacy Courses	30	40	70
		Book Distribution	117	151	268
		Mobile Library	150*	150*	300*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	400	400	800
		Growing Green Nature	300	350	650
Estanoo Ghorian	**400**	Literacy Courses	80	112	192
		Book Distribution	187	291	478
		Mobile Library	125*	125*	250*
		Growing Green Nature	300	300	600
		Tailoring Courses	5	0	5
Baran Abad Ghorian	**2,500**	Literacy Courses	220	418	638
		Book Distribution	250	330	580
		Mobile Library	300*	300*	600*
		Growing Green Nature	1,100	1,300	2,400
Roshnan Ghorian	**450**	Literacy Courses	70	60	130
		Book Distribution	150	98	248
		Mobile Library	130*	130*	260*
		Child Friendly Space/Playground	500	700	1,200
		Growing Green Nature	200	200	400
Shalbafan	**5,000**	Literacy Courses	0	269	269

Community	Population No. of Families	Activity	Beneficiaries Female	Beneficiaries Male	Total
Herat City		Book Distribution	100	100	200
		Mobile Library	350*	350*	700*
		Growing Green Nature	1,200	1,000	2,200
		School for the Blind	40**	40**	80**
Gazergah Herat City	**1,200**	Literacy Courses	50	100	150
		Book Distribution	177	171	348
		Mobile Library	200*	200*	400*
		Growing Green Nature	350	480	830
		School for the Blind	40**	40**	80**

* ***Mobile Library figures per month during project lifetime.***
** ***Figures include numbers of children from neighboring areas***

Objective 3 - **Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.**

In addition to the children attending the School for the Blind, a number of other particularly vulnerable women and children have been identified through the CWG's. In the village of Khargaltan, for example, a number of children suffering from Tuberculoses and malnutrition were reported. There were also cases of serious birth complications including the death of a woman during delivery. Similar occurrences of malnutrition and natal problems have also been reported in the communities of Dehran, Barmallan and Shabed. As an immediate response IRC have provided medicine and food packages to those affected. However, it is acknowledged that this is an emergency measure and is neither sustainable nor a long-term solution to the problem. Discussions with communities have highlighted the need for training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) and immunization programs. As this project does not have the capacity to deliver TBA trainings, we are looking to work with a locally based health NGO who has the expertise to implement them. A number of immunization programs are being conducted nationwide through UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH). The IRC Child Protection team has attended MoH trainings and will be working as immunization monitors for the districts targeted in this project.

The problem of malnutrition is an overt consequence of poverty affecting the most vulnerable community members. Priority will therefore be given to these individuals to participate in skills trainings and income generation activities. Community Health and Nutrition and First Aid training will also be delivered to targeted communities.

Challenges/Constraints
The remote location of rural communities compounded by a lack of road infrastructure makes getting healthcare, particularly in emergency cases, an extremely difficult task. Many communities currently have no access to healthcare facilities and those that do exist are often unable to meet the demands of the populace due to their location, and a lack of skills and resources. IRC intends to set up referral services with health NGO's although this is very much dependent on agencies area's of operation. Prevention through community education, training and immunization programs will be the primary focus in addressing health issues within this project.

Well Being Committee (CWBC) and IRC its Community Working Group (CWG). All models promote and facilitate a meaningful dialogue between youth and adults in the targeted communities. While the mechanics of each approach is somewhat different, the end result is increased engagement between youth and adults on issues that youth identify as real, or potential, risks and threats to their well being.

The Consortium Partners made good progress in expanding and/or embedding their respective participatory model within their respective target communities during the course of the 3rd Quarter.

B. Beneficiaries

The Consortium Partners reached 42,030 direct child/youth beneficiaries with program activity during the Reporting period. Indirect beneficiaries number many more[1] and will experience some level of improvement in their standard of living and levels of psychosocial well being as a result of the Project's community interventions.

C. Project Location

The project targets a mixture of urban, peri-urban and rural communities in 25 Districts in five provinces; Heart, Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz and Badakshan. The Project operates in the Southern, Central and Northeastern Regions of Afghanistan.[2]

IV. PROGRAM PEFORMANCE

Goal – To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of poverty stricken, protracted conflict environment.

All Partners made progress on achieving the Project's overall goal. As noted earlier, all Partners either established, or expanded, the community based model of promoting a meaningful dialogue between children, youth and adults. In all Project Regions, the Partners facilitated a process wherein children/youth identified the real, and potential, risks to their physical and psychosocial well being and presented their finding to the adult leadership in their respective communities. Work is underway to address the issues (see below) that emerged in the course of this phase of the Project.

Objective 1 – Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

Each Partner facilitated community meeting wherein 1,578 children/youth identified real, or potential, risks and threats to their psychosocial well being. Naturally, the issues identified reflected the child's local context, e.g., urban vs. rural communities. Key risk and threats, that children/youth articulated included:

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[1] SC/US estimates that up to 171,000 children indirectly benefit from the Project.
[2] For precise detail on the Project's location, see each Partner's individual Report (attached)

Objective 4 - **Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.**

The IRC facilitated two inter-agency Child Protection Meetings were held during this reporting period and were attended by other child focused NGO's, UN agencies, and some local government. The first meeting focused upon developing a unified strategy to address the issue of road safety and traffic awareness. The second meeting concerned inter-agency responses to juvenile justice and included issues of children being deported from Iran and links to child trafficking. It was agreed that UNHCR, IOM, Unicef and IRC would develop community-based assessments to examine the extent of the problem.

IRC also serves as the focal point for the Global Movement for Children (GMC) activities in Western Afghanistan. Working with a local partner, children's consultation groups are held on a weekly basis. This forms part of a national program represented by children throughout Afghanistan and aims to provide them with the opportunity to voice their opinions and advocate for themselves on issues of concern.

Challenges/Constraints
The major challenge to date is getting relevant ministries to attend the meetings. Despite personal invitations and assurances that they will attend no representative from the Ministries of Planning or Education has participated.

The IRC regularly convenes the Child Protection Network meetings on a monthly basis. However, due to a memorial service to commemorate a murdered UNHCR colleague, November's meeting had to be cancelled as the times and date coincided. Unfortunately, due to the short notice of this event no alternative timeframe could be found during the remainder of the month in which the meeting could be held.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. **Resources Committed** – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

B. **Expenditures** – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

- Lack of access to clean water or an unsafe water collection point. In some instances, the children reported outbreaks of violence in their community due to either insufficient water or an inequitable distribution.

- Education and literacy related issues were common to all locations. In some cases, access was a major problem in others the quality of education (overcrowding, poorly trained teachers, insufficient resources for the number of pupils, etc.).

- Lack of safe play areas for children. Common problems were the danger of landmines, pollution from uncollected rubbish, dangerous surroundings (e.g. rubble left over from the war) and a lack of space for recreation activities.

- General access to healthcare and, in particular, issues of childbirth came out in many discussions.

- Children voiced concerns about the poor economic situation in many households that resulted in little wood or oil to heat their homes, insufficient funds to pay for public transportation and in some cases children working.

Objective 2 – Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

The Consortium facilitated the work of 117 community based children/youth groups that serve as the focal point for on going Child Protection activity in the target communities.[3] Concrete, child centered activity to address the issues described above, in Objective 1, included:

- 12,854 children/youth attended a Literacy class. Approximately, 60% of the participating children were girls.

- 35 water wells were constructed or rehabilitated.

- 4,670 children (50% girls) borrowed book from IRC's mobile library

- 289 youth are enrolled in vocational skills training courses learning several trades, including tailoring, carpentry, masonry, and small engine repair

- Over 5,000 children are actively participating in recreational activity from improved playgrounds to organized football and volleyball teams.

Objective 3 – Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

The various community based youth groups have begun to identify those children who are particularly vulnerable and whom require special assistance. The Consortium partners are working with the local communities to respond appropriately. Some examples of current activity include,

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[3] CCF facilitated 40 CWBCs, SC/US facilitated 63 Child to Child groups and IRC facilitated 14 Community Working Groups (CWGs)

- Inclusion of underage child soldier and widows in vocational skills training courses

- In instances where children are suffering from Tuberculoses or malnutrition, the Partners are working with the local community and local government officials (e.g., the Ministry of Health) to ensure that the community has access to an adequate level of services and support.

- SC/US worked with kindergarten teachers employed by the Ministry of Social Labor and Social Affairs to use a child protection and monitoring tool to enable them to identify the special needs of especially vulnerable children.[4]

- The CWGs that IRC works with in Heart city identified 80 blind children (many are survivors of landmine explosions) who attended a School for the Blind managed, and run, by a team of volunteer teachers. IRC intends to work with the community and school officials to improve its infrastructure.

Objective 4 – Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

Each Consortium Partner is the focal organization for the Afghanistan Child Protection Network in its respective Region of work (SC/US in the Central Region, IRC in the Southern Region and CCF/CFA in the Northeast). Each Partner hosts regular meetings on the Network in their respective Regions and is in regular dialogue with Regional government authorities and NGOs working in their respective areas. These meeting focused on a range of Child Protection related issues including; child trafficking, road safety and juvenile justice.

SC/US trained 32 staff from 17 NGOs on Child Protection issues.

The SC Alliance launched a national *Butterfly Campaign* to promote awareness, dialogue and action for Child Protection with the goal of highlighting a global, shared responsibility to protect Afghan children.

IRC serves as the focal point for the Global Movement for Children (GMC) activities in Western Afghanistan.

V. RESOURCE USE/EXPENDITURE

The Partners will forward an analysis of forecast Project expenditure to USAID/DCOF shortly.

A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover

B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover

[4] The SC Alliance developed a child protection and monitoring tool in 2003

Christian Children's Fund/Child Fund Afghanistan

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Child fund Afghanistan	**Date**: 23 January 2004
Mailing Address: Main Taimany Road	**Contract Person**: Frederik Prins
House # 75	**Telephone**: 070 203 638
Kabul, Afghanistan	**Email**: frederikprins@hotmail.com
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this report: October-December 2003	

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Goal: CFA program goal is to improve in a sustainable manner the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enable primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a protracted conflict environment.

The program has three objectives: (1) identification and reduction of threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities; (2) increased engagement of Afghan children, particularly young children and vulnerable groups, including war victims, with their environment in safe, integrated, developmentally appropriate ways; and (3) increase positive engagement of and developmental learning opportunities for Afghan youth, which improves their learning and positive participation in the community.

The program also mobilizes family and community support for child protection, engages youth in providing material aid and building community structures such as wells, springs and small bridges. It organizes youth and children in urgently needed child protection activities, supports income-generating activities, and assists teachers who work with war-affected children.

B. Beneficiaries: The following youth and children will directly benefit from the program: 10,000 students to be enrolled in literacy classes; 6,000 students to participate in child-centered spaces; 180 students to be enrolled in vocational training; in addition there are over 5,000 adults and children who indirectly benefited from the program through civic work schemes, etc.

C. **Location:** Communities in the three northeastern provinces; Badakshan, Kunduz and Takhar:

Province	District	Literacy classes	Vocational Training	CCS	CWBC
1 Badakshan	Faizabad	0	10	0	160
	Baharak	0	50	0	0
	Shohada	300	0	300	0
	Jurm	450	0	1,000	0
	Daraem	0	0	700	0
	Zebak	390	0	754	0
	Eshkahim	360	0	0	0
	Total	**1,500**	**60**	**2,754**	**160**
2 Kunduz	Qalazai	1,845			
	Imam Sahib	1,463		328	
	Chardara	580		422	
	Aliabad	942		480	
	Kunduz	380			
	Total	**5,210**	**60**	**1,230**	**320**
3. Takha	Farkhar	366	0	0	0
	Khujaghar	1,028	60	1,060	160
	Kalafgan	60	0	200	0
	Bangi	0	0	400	20
	Taluqan	1,846	0	0	140
	Total	**3,300**	**60**	**1,662**	**320**
TOTAL		**10,010**	**180**	**5,646**	**800**

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. **Objective # 1:** Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure

- 40 child-well being committees (CWBCs) established in three provinces; 16 in Kunduz, 16 in Takhar, and 8 in Badakshan.
- 80 community mobilizers were trained to assist children and communities to identify and address protection risks.
- 80 maps (2 for each community, grouped boys and girls) were produced and clearly indicated the nature and location of the physical risks to children.
- 840 children participated in mapping exercise.
- 800 parents, youths and children served in Child well-being committees (320 children, 160 men, 160 women, 80 young men and 80 young women).
- 500 parents/community leaders (male and female) and 300 were trained and participated in psychosocial emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights issues, children's right, child trafficking, and mine risks awareness.
- 40 youth clubs and 40 women association were established in 40 CWBC communities. Approximately 1,500 youth actively involved in these related activities.

B. **Objective #2:** Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed and implemented

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

- **CFA community mobilizers assisted and guided Child Well-Being Committees to overcome physical and psychosocial threats to children.**
  - ➢**80** CWBCs in 40 communities (one male and one female committee in each community) continue to organize their respective communities to take decisions around action plans.
  - ➢The **CWBCs' members** agreed to continue their functions without any financial incentives.
  - ➢**Communities** continue to improve their environments through cleaning and proper disposal of trash or still standing water.
  - ➢Additional 7 km of internal roads has been repaired.
  - ➢35 new wells construction (15 in Kunduz, 12 in Takhar, 8 in Badakshan) were completed.
  - ➢An additional 10 small wooden bridges/concrete were built (adding to the previously built 23).
  - ➢Education on important children's issues like mine awareness, child's rights, human rights, child trafficking, etc. continues.

- **To improve psychosocial well being by organizing children and youth in the target communities into special teams and clubs.**
  - ➢ Establishment of 40 youth clubs and 40 women associations.
  - ➢ 500 parents/community leaders and 300 teachers were trained on psychosocial/emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights, children's rights, child trafficking, and mine risks awareness.
  - ➢ 100 football teams and 90 volleyball teams were established; youth, communities and children have been actively involved.

- **To improve livelihood opportunities and physical infrastructure of target communities.**
  - ➢ 10,000 students continue to participate in literacy classes.
  - ➢ 6,000 pupils continue to attend Child Centered Spaces.
  - ➢ 180 students continue skills training classes; will soon graduate.
  - ➢ Over 1000 youth benefited from CFA integrated community based projects; cash for work, civic works, etc.

C. Objective#3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities. The integrated community-based program (cash for work and civic works), initiated by CFA, continues to provide assistance to vulnerable groups (underage soldiers, widows, and disabled people).

D. Objective#4: Advocacy for actions occurs on child protection issues at provincial and national level.

CFA with UNICEF, UNAMA, Government agencies, and several other INGOs, continues to cooperate in the human rights working groups, to address problems and preventive measures against child trafficking, and support child protection issues. As a result of good collaboration among those involved, on several occasions child trafficking has been stopped and traffickers were brought to justice by the authorities. CFA continues to co-chair monthly meetings with provincial human rights offices to address these important issues.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed

B. Expenditures - Budget report submitted under separate cover to USAID in Washington.

V. LIFE STORY

My name is Nooria. I live in Oruzbach village, Khuja-e-Ghar village, Takhar province. There are seven people in our family: five sisters, one brother, and my mother. My father died years ago. I remember when I was about seven years old, one day, Taliban soldiers came into our village, entered our house and forced my father to go with them. We did not know what had happened to him but we later learned that the Taliban had killed him. We were very sad, especially my mother. She cried and cried, sometimes it seemed like she had gone mad. Soon after my father's tragedy, we left the village. My mother was a tailor, but she had no job. It was very difficult for her to raise six of us at a very young age. In order to keep us alive, with the love of mother for her children, she had no other choice but to take up the indignity job of begging; at the end of the day she would come home with old bread. She divided bread equally and gave to us and she took nothing.
She would turn her back to us and we often heard her sorrowed cry, but we did not quite understand. Now, I am older and understand why our mother cried so much. After the Taliban regime moved from power we returned back to our former village. There nothing was left for us: our house was destroyed, no property available. Life has been difficult for us without our father. We had no sources of income. My mother and sisters are illiterate. There is no school close by our village. When we heard that CFA was opening up a CCS class in our village; my sisters and I decided to enroll. We are very happy that we become able to learn how to read and write. We hope education will help us to have a better life!

VI. PLAN FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

To start establishing an additional 30 Child Well Being Committees in 30 communities: 10 in Takhar, 10 in Kunduz and 10 in Badakshan.

SAVE THE CHILDREN/US -

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Save the Children US	**Date:** 15 January, 2004
Mailing Address: Darulman Main Road Sherkat Bus Stop Ayoob Khan Mena Kabul, Afghanistan	**Contact Person:** Susan Erb Kabul Program Manager **Telephone:** 070 298 247 **Email:** serb@afg.savechildren.org
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: October-December, 2003	

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Save the Children US (SC/US) Program Goal and Objectives – To enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support

SC/US programs for psychosocial support of children are based on the belief that adequate child protection must include the protection of children's emotional and social well being – as well as their physical well being. However, protection concerns for Afghan children currently outstrip the capacity of child-focused agencies in Afghanistan, and SC/US recognizes the need to create and expand capacity for children's protection. The overall aim of the project is to enhance children's well being by increasing community-based capacity for children's protection and psychosocial support. The project is designed as a follow up project to the six-month *Children of Kabul* research project, which identified threats to children's protection and psychosocial well being. SC/US plans to reduce and resolve these threats by mobilizing children and community members to take action on issues identified and prioritized by children.

B. Beneficiaries (Clarification)

Initially, SC/US expected 1,150 children to benefit from this project through direct participation in *Child to Child* programs (nine communities with 16 *Child to Child* groups of eight participants each). An additional 11,500 children were expected to learn about the *Child to Child* topics from group participants and through community actions. Community populations were determined by facilitators, *wakils*, and community elders using a family size of seven children plus two adults, which is a conservative estimate, since many households have multiple nuclear families in them. Boys and girls were estimated at a ratio of 40:60 of the under-18 population due.

Updated beneficiary actuals are 1,086 children as direct beneficiaries of *Child to Child* groups. Indirect beneficiaries are now estimated to total 8,050, because it has become clear that direct beneficiaries consistently share experience and information with siblings, and it is more accurate to count these as indirect beneficiaries rather than friends and neighbors, who, in general, are mutual to many group members.

A fundamental tenet of the *Child to Child* initiative is that many community members benefit from interventions/improvements that address issues raised in the *Child to Child* groups. Thus, it is presumed that up to 171,000 children (the total estimated under-18 population of target communities) will experience some level of improvement in their standard of living and